His Majesties most Gracious

LETTER

TO THE

PARLIAMENT

OF

SCOTLAND.

WILLIAM R.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Continuation of the War, still Hinders Us from Pursuing Our Resolution of being amongst you in Person; And so Obliges Us to Call you together once more in Our Absence. Therefore We have appointed Our Right Trusty and Right Intirely Beloved Cousin and Counsellor, *John* Marquis of *Tweeddale*, to be Our Commissioner, and to Represent Our Person and Authority amongst you. The Proofs he hath given of his Capacity and Experience in Business, as well as of his Fidelity and Zeal, by his many and long Services to the Crown and Nation, and particularly to Us, since We made him Our Chancellor, will Render Him very Acceptable to you. We Desire you to give him Intire Trust and Credit; for We have fully Instructed Him with Our Mind. He has Powers to pass all such Laws for the Good of that Our Ancient Kingdom, as have been proposed to Us at this Time. He is to Ask Nothing of you in Our Name, but that which the Interest of the Countrey makes necessary to be Done; And therefore We need not Mention to you, that the Subsidies for Paying the Forces are now Expired, and that your Peace and Safety Requires the Renewing of them during the War. You will be also Sensible, that there

is a Neceſſity to have the Coaſt and Trade ſecured from Privateers. We are glade of any Appearances of a Diſpoſition to Moderation and Union, about Church-Matters; We Hope you will Encourage it, and Promote it, by removing the Subjects of Differences as much as you can.

We are not unmindful of your Letter to *Us* in the cloſe of the laſt Seſſion. The known *Interruptions* We have had in Buſineſs this Winter, have been a great Hinderance to Us, but We are Reſolved to *Do* whatſoever may be for the Security of the Government, and the Satisfaction of *Our* good *Subjects*. We Recommend to you **Calmneſs and Unanimity** in your *Proceedings*; and Doubt not, but that you'l Act ſutably to the Confidence We have put in you, in Calling you again in Our **Abſence**: And that as you have done upon other *Occaſions*, ſo you will upon this, Give Us ſuch Signal Teſtimonies of your Duty and Affection, as will Convince all Men, of the perfect Union and Underſtanding, that is betwixt **Us and that Our Ancient Kingdom**. Given at Our Court at *Kenſington*, the 17th Day of *April*, 1695. And of Our Reign the 7th Year.

By His Majeſties Command,

J. Johnſtoun.

Directed thus,

To the Lords Temporal, and the Commiſſioners of Shires and Burghs, Aſſembled in Parliament of Our Antient Kingdom of *Scotland*.

THE SPEECH OF JOHN *Marquis of* Tweeddale,

His Majesties High Commissioner, to the Parliament *of* SCOTLAND,

On *Thursday* the Ninth of *May*, 1695.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE great Confidence the King hath in your Affection, and Faithfulness to his Government, and the Trust he reposes in you, doth evidently appear in His calling you so frequently together, during his own necessary Absence beyond Sea, as well as His tender Care and Concern for your safety and Welfare, in minding every thing which may contribute thereto.

Particularly as to the Concerns of the Church, that all Differences about Church-Matters, and amongst Church-Men may be composed; it being His Majesties Purpose to maintain *Presbyterian-Government* in the Church of *Scotland*.

And that the Peace and Security of the Kingdom against Forraign Invasion and Intestine Commotion be provided for, by renewing the former, or granting other Supplies for maintaining the Land Forces, and providing and intertaining a competent Naval Force for the Defence of the Coast, and securing of Trade.

And if you find, it will tend to the Advancement of Trade, that an Act be passed for the Encouragement of such as shall Acquire and Establish a Plantation in *Affrica* or *America*, or any other part of the World, where Plantations may be lawfully acquired: His Majesty is willing to Declare, that He will grant to the Subjects of this Kingdom, in Favours of those Plantations, such Rights and Priviledges as He doth grant in like Cases to the Subjects of His other Dominions.

And that the Judicatories Higher and Subaltern be so Regulated in their Proceedings, as Justice may be Administred with the greatest Dispatch, and least Charge to the People.

These Things have taken up some part of His Majesties Time and Thoughts these Months past, that I have had the Honour to wait upon Him, and

have been frequently Discourſed by Him, and then put in the Method of Inſtructions, and Directions for my Behaviour in the Station He hath honoured me with.

So that *I* can ſay without Flattery, there is nothing that can Contribute to promote the Honour and Intereſt, the Safety and Security of this His Antient Kingdom, which His Majeſty will not concur with you to provide for, and hath not Impowered me to Conſent to.

It remains then, *My Lords and Gentlemen*, for you to take theſe weighty Affairs under Conſideration, and to Conſult of the beſt Ways and Means to enable His Majeſty to perfect ſo good Deſigns.

By granting *Him* Supplies for maintaining the preſent Land-Forces.

And for Providing and Entertaining a Competent Naval-Force, for the *De*fence of the Coaſt, and Securing of Trade: In Order to which, *His* Majeſty hath granted a Commiſſion of Admirality for Managing the Affairs thereof.

Not omitting to take Care for the other unavoidable Contingencies of the Government, wherein the Civil Liſt comes ſhort.

Your Diſpatch of theſe Great Affairs with Chearfulneſs and Alacrity, will perfect a good Underſtanding, and perpetuat a Confidence betwixt the King and you.